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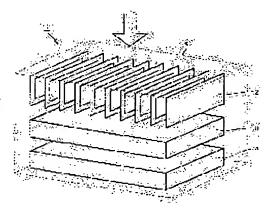
(54) NITROGEN OXIDE REMOVING APPARATUS AND COMBUSTION EQUIPMENT EQUIPPED WITH THE SAME

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a nitrogen oxide removing apparatus which has a simple structure and can remove NOx without contaminating the air in a living space, and to provide a combustion equipment equipped with the nitrogen oxide removing apparatus.

13.11.2002

SOLUTION: The nitrogen oxide removing apparatus is provided with an electric field generating part which is composed of a plurality of plate-shaped electrodes disposed so as to be opposed to each other leaving an interval and a voltage applying means for applying a voltage between the electrodes, and an active species adsorbing part which adsorbs the active species produced between the electrodes. The combustion equipment is equipped with the nitrogen oxide removing apparatus. Therein, the active species adsorbing part is preferably disposed on the gas down stream side on the electric field generating part and an ozone decomposition part for decomposing ozone is preferably disposed on the gas down stream side of the active species adsorbing part.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]

The nitrogen-oxides stripper equipped with the electric-field generating section which consists of an electrical-potential-difference impression means to impress an electrical potential difference between two or more plate-like electrodes arranged so that spacing may be opened and it may counter mutually, and these electrodes, and the active species support section which supports the active species generated to interelectrode.

[Claim 2]

The nitrogen-oxides stripper according to claim 1 characterized by installing the active species support section in the gas downstream of the electric-field generating section.

[Claim 3]

The active species support section is a nitrogen-oxides stripper according to claim 1 or 2 characterized by consisting of a filter containing a zeolite.

[Claim 4]

The nitrogen-oxides stripper according to claim 3 characterized by the SiO2/aluminum2O3 mole ratios of a zeolite being 50-50000.

[Claim 5]

A nitrogen-oxides stripper given in either of claims 1-4 characterized by arranging the electrode so that one side of the opposed face of the electrode which is formed when an electrode installs a metal plate on an insulator plate, and has countered mutually may serve as an insulator plate surface.

[Claim 6]

A nitrogen-oxides stripper given in either of claims 1-4 characterized by arranging the electrode so that the both sides of the opposed face of the electrode which is formed when an electrode puts a metal plate between two insulator plates, and has countered mutually may become an insulator plate surface.

[Claim 7]

The nitrogen-oxides stripper according to claim 5 or 6 characterized by an insulator plate being larger than a metal plate, and retreating the periphery of a metal plate from the periphery of an insulator plate.

[Claim 8]

An electrical-potential-difference impression means is a nitrogen-oxides stripper given in either of claims 1-7 characterized by being what impresses alternating voltage to inter-electrode.

[Claim 9]

A nitrogen-oxides stripper given in either of claims 1-8 characterized by installing the ozonolysis section which decomposes ozone into the gas downstream of the active species support section.

[Claim 10]

The ozonolysis section is a nitrogen-oxides stripper according to claim 9 characterized by being a filter containing manganese oxide.

[Claim 11]

The burning appliance characterized by equipping either of claims 1-10 with the nitrogen-oxides stripper of a publication.

[Translation done.]

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]

This invention relates to the burning appliances (for example, a kerosene fan heater, an oilstove, a gas fan heater, a gas stove, etc.) equipped with this characteristic nitrogen-oxides stripper while relating to a nitrogen-oxides stripper.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]

In recent years, with actualization of an environmental problem, or a raise in airtight [of habitation space], the harmful matter in air is removed and the request of wanting to lead a healthy and comfortable life is strong. In order to meet this request, the air cleaner equipped with various kinds of filters is developed. The method which attracts the air in habitation space and adsorbs harmful matter with a filter is used for these air cleaners.

[0003]

However, since the nitrogen oxides NOx generated in large quantities by combustion of petroleum etc. were emitted to housing space when burning appliances, such as a petroleum fan-assisted heater, are used in the habitation space made high airtight, there was a problem that the increment in the NOx concentration in housing space could not fully be prevented in the conventional air cleaner.

[0004]

In order to solve this problem, in the patent reference 1, ammonia gas is generated if needed, and the equipment from which NOx in the exhaust gas discharged by the catalytic reaction of this ammonia gas and NOx from a burning appliance is removed is indicated.

[0005]

[Patent reference 1]

JP,11-165042,A

[0006]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]

However, since unreacted ammonia gas will be contained in exhaust gas when AMMONIGASU has been superfluously generated in the stripper currently indicated by the patent reference 1, there was a problem that the air of habitation space was polluted. Since it was moreover necessary to adjust the amount of supply of ammonia gas according to the amount of NOx generated from a burning appliance, there was a problem that the configuration of equipment will become very complicated and the manufacturing cost of equipment will become high.

[0007]

Then, in view of the above-mentioned problem, the equipment configuration of this invention is simple, and it aims at offering the burning appliance equipped with the nitrogen-oxides stripper and this which can remove NOx, without polluting the air of habitation space.

[8000]

[Means for Solving the Problem]

This invention is the nitrogen-oxides stripper equipped with the electric-field generating section which consists of an electrical-potential-difference impression means to impress an electrical potential difference between two or more plate-like electrodes arranged so that spacing may be opened and it may counter mutually, and these electrodes, and the active species support section which supports the active species generated to inter-electrode.

[0009]

Here, in the nitrogen-oxides stripper concerning this invention, it is desirable that the active species support section is installed in the gas downstream of the electric-field generating section.

[0010]

Moreover, in the nitrogen-oxides stripper concerning this invention, it is desirable to consist of a filter with which the active species support section contains a zeolite.

[0011]

It is more desirable that the SiO2/aluminum2O3 mole ratios of the zeolite contained in the active species support section are 50-50000 here.

[0012]

Moreover, in the nitrogen-oxides stripper concerning this invention, it is formed when an electrode installs a metal plate on an insulator plate, and an electrode can be arranged so that one side of the opposed face of the electrode which has countered mutually may serve as an insulator plate surface.

[0013]

Moreover, in the nitrogen-oxides stripper concerning this invention, it is formed when an electrode puts a metal plate between two insulator plates, and an electrode can be arranged so that the both sides of the opposed face of the electrode which has countered mutually may become an insulator plate surface. [0014]

The insulator plate which constitutes an electrode is larger than a metal plate here, and it is desirable that the periphery of a metal plate is retreated from the periphery of an insulator plate.

[0015]

Moreover, in the nitrogen-oxides stripper concerning this invention, it is desirable that an electrical-potential-difference impression means is what impresses alternating voltage to inter-electrode. [0016]

Moreover, in the nitrogen-oxides stripper concerning this invention, it is desirable that the ozonolysis section which decomposes ozone into the gas downstream of the active species support section is installed. [0017]

Here, as for the ozonolysis section, it is desirable that it is a filter containing manganese oxide. Furthermore, this invention is the burning appliance equipped with the above-mentioned nitrogen-oxides stripper.

[0018]

[Embodiment of the Invention]

(Nitrogen-oxides stripper)

The typical perspective view of a desirable example of the nitrogen-oxides stripper which starts this invention at <u>drawing 1</u> is shown. In <u>drawing 1</u>, the nitrogen-oxides stripper 1 contains an electrode 2, the plate-like active species support section 3, and the plate-like ozonolysis section 4 in the case 9. The arrow head shows the direction where gas flows among <u>drawing 1</u>. Here, the active species support section 3 is installed in the gas downstream of an electrode 2, and the ozonolysis section 4 is installed in the gas downstream of the active species support section 3.

The nitrogen-oxides stripper 1 concerning this invention from having taken such a configuration For example, when the exhaust gas which contains NOx from exhaust ports, such as a burning appliance, has flowed in the direction of an arrow head By making the space between the electrodes 2 with which an electrical potential difference is impressed and gas, such as NOx or air, exists between electrodes 2 generate the plasma, and supporting active species, such as a radical in the plasma, in the active species support section 3 installed in the gas downstream Or by making the active species and NOx which were supported react, NOx is removable. Moreover, even when ozone is not supported in the active species support section 3 by installing the ozonolysis section 4 in the gas downstream of the active species support section 3, the ozone which has an unpleasant smell in the ozonolysis section 4 can be decomposed.

(Electrode)

The typical perspective view which expanded the electrode 2 to <u>drawing 2</u> is shown. In <u>drawing 2</u>, the electrode 2 is formed by installing a metal plate 6 on the insulator plate 5. And it is arranged so that two or more electrodes 2 may open spacing and may counter mutually. Here, since one side of the opposed face of the electrode 2 which has countered mutually is the 5th page of an insulator plate, the electrode 2 is arranged so that the combination of the opposed face which consists of the 6th page of a 5th page-metal plate of an

insulator plate may continue. When electric field are generated between electrodes 2 with such a configuration, since the dielectric constant of the insulator plate 5 is larger than the dielectric constant of the gas which exists in the space between electrodes 2, the direction of the effect of the electric field which the gas which exists between electrodes 2 receives from the effect of the electric field which the insulator plate 5 receives becomes large. And the direction of the gas which exists between electrodes 2 causes dielectric breakdown with field strength lower than the insulator plate 5.

Therefore, when the electrical potential difference impressed between electrodes 2 is made to increase and it is made the electrical potential difference of the predetermined range, discharge of the gas which exists between electrodes 2 will break out quietly, and the plasma will occur. Here, since the field strength which the gas which exists between electrodes 2 receives is uniform, it becomes possible widely to the space between electrodes 2 to make homogeneity generate the plasma of it. [0022]

Moreover, in an electrode 2, it is desirable that the insulator plate 5 is formed more greatly than a metal plate 6, and the periphery of a metal plate 6 is retreated from the periphery of the insulator plate 5. In this case, it can prevent that a conductive high discharge way is formed between the end faces of the electrode 2 which counters mutually, and a big current flows between electrodes 2.

Moreover, as for an electrode 2, it is desirable to be formed by putting a metal plate between two insulator plates. In this case, an electrode 2 will be arranged so that the both sides of the opposed face of an electrode 2 may become the 5th page of an insulator plate. Therefore, a conductive high discharge way is formed between the end faces of the electrode 2 which counters, and a current does not flow.

Moreover, although you may make inter-electrode [these] generate two electric fields using an electrode 2, it is desirable to make inter-electrode [these] generate three or more electric fields using an electrode 2 as mentioned above. In this case, larger space can be made to generate the plasma. [0025]

In addition, as an insulator plate 5, insulator sheet metal, such as glass, such as boro-silicated glass, and ceramics, is used, for example. Moreover, as a metal plate 6, metallic thin plates, such as aluminum, copper, stainless steel, and a tungsten, are used, for example. Moreover, a metal plate 6 may be formed by making metal thin films, such as aluminum, copper, and a tungsten, deposit on the front face of the insulator plate 5 physically or chemically.

[0026]

(Electric-field generating section)

The typical conceptual diagram of a desirable example of the electric-field generating section used for this invention at drawing 3 is shown. In drawing 3, a metal plate 6 is formed on the insulator plate 5, and the electric-field generating section 7 includes two or more electrodes 2 arranged so that one side of an opposed face may serve as the 5th page of an insulator plate, and the electrical-potential-difference impression means 8 for impressing an electrical potential difference among these electrodes 2. By considering as such a configuration, with the electrical-potential-difference impression means 8, an electrical potential difference can be impressed between electrodes 2, and the plasma can be generated between electrodes 2. Among the molecule which exists between electrodes 2 at this time, ion, and an electron, since the volume and mass of an electron are very small, the electrical potential difference impressed between electrodes 2 fully accelerates by electric field, after an electron is emitted from an atom etc. before colliding with other molecules etc., and temperature becomes high very much with it. However, since a molecule and ion have the volume and large mass, it is seldom accelerated and temperature does not become high. That is, when alternating voltage is impressed between electrodes 2, the nonequilibrium plasma which has a temperature gradient between a molecule and ion, and an electron will occur. And active species with high reactivity, such as for example, an oxygen atom radical (-O), a nitrogen atom radical (-N), a hydroxy radical (-OH), a hydroperoxide radical (-HO2), and ozone (O3), is generated by this nonequilibrium plasma. That is, active species, such as a radical and ozone, will be uniformly generated by the large space between electrodes 2. [0027]

Here, as for the electrical-potential-difference impression means 8, it is desirable that it is what impresses alternating voltage between electrodes 2. when the electrical potential difference impressed between electrodes 2 is direct current voltage, flow into a metal plate 6 by existence of the insulator plate 5 -- since the charge which is not is accumulated in the front face of the insulator plate 5, the electric field which

affect the gas which exists between electrodes 2 decrease, and it is in the inclination for the plasma generated between electrodes 2 to disappear immediately. However, when the electrical potential difference impressed between electrodes 2 is alternating voltage, since a charge is not accumulated in the front face of the insulator plate 5, it is stabilized between electrodes 2 and the plasma can be maintained.

[0028]

In addition, as the electric-field generating section 7, as shown, for example in <u>drawing 4</u>, two or more electrodes 2 which put and formed the metal plate 6 between the insulator plates 5 can be arranged, and the thing equipped with an electrical-potential-difference impression means 8 to impress an electrical potential difference between electrodes 2 can also be used. Also in this case, nonequilibrium plasma can be stabilized and maintained to the large space between electrodes 2.

(Active species support section)

As for the active species support section 3 shown in <u>drawing 1</u>, it is desirable that it is a filter containing a zeolite. NOx which NOx contained in the exhaust gas of a burning appliance or air was decomposed into active species in the electric-field generating section, or was not decomposed in the electric-field generating section is supported with the active species support section 3 by adsorption etc. That is, both active species, such as a radical which NOx and air were decomposed in the electric-field generating section, and was generated, and NOx which was not decomposed in the electric-field generating section can be drawn near in the pore which a zeolite has. And if active species and NOx cause a reaction within this pore, it will be returned to a nitrogen content child (N2), or NOx will oxidize to a nitric acid (HNO3) etc. Here, the nitric acid (HNO3) which NOx oxidized within pore and generated is imagined to be what is certainly supported by adsorption etc. in the pore of a zeolite. Since the catalytic activity of a zeolite is high when the zeolite is an elevated temperature enough by contact to the exhaust gas of a burning appliance especially, the reaction of the active species and NOx in pore very becomes easy to occur. Therefore, when the active species support section 3 is a filter containing a zeolite, most will be removed only by NOx passing between electrodes 2 and the active species support section 3 once.

Here, with metal mold, what kneaded the powder of a zeolite with clay etc. may be cast in the shape of a honeycomb, and the filter containing a zeolite may produce it, or may apply the powder of a zeolite to honeycomb-like support, and may produce it.

[0031]

Moreover, it is desirable to use that whose above-mentioned mole ratios it is desirable to use as a zeolite that whose SiO2/aluminum2O3 mole ratios are 50-50000, it is desirable still more desirable to use that whose above-mentioned mole ratios are 500-10000 more preferably, and are 2000-5000. When SiO2/aluminum2O3 mole ratio is less than 50, it is in the inclination for the capacity to remove NOx that it is easy to adsorb polar molecules, such as a water molecule, to decline, and when a mole ratio is larger than 50000, the number of the aluminum within the crystal structure of a zeolite is guessed that it is too few and the adsorption capacity of a zeolite falls.

The crystal structure of a zeolite is the structure which SiO4 tetrahedron by which O (oxygen) has been arranged focusing on Si (silicon) at each top-most vertices of a tetrahedron, and AlO4 tetrahedron by which O (oxygen) has been arranged focusing on aluminum (aluminum) at each top-most vertices of a tetrahedron arranged in three dimension while sharing O (oxygen). And polar molecules, such as a water molecule, stop being able to adsorb easily in zeolite pore, so that the rate of Si to aluminum within the crystal structure of a zeolite becomes large. That is, the capacity for polar molecules, such as a water molecule which adsorbed in zeolite pore, to remove NOx, so that the rate of Si to aluminum within the crystal structure of a zeolite is large, since active species and NOx, such as a radical, block reacting within pore becomes high. On the other hand, if there is too few aluminum within the crystal structure of a zeolite, since the number of aluminum3+ of the coordination number 4 which permutes Si4+ will decrease, it is guessed that the capacity for the capacity to adsorb active species and NOx, such as a radical, to decline, as a result to remove NOx declines.

[0033]

(Ozonolysis section)

As shown in <u>drawing 1</u>, in the nitrogen-oxides stripper 1 concerning this invention, it is desirable that the ozonolysis section 4 which decomposes ozone into the gas downstream of the active species support section 3 is installed. The inside of active species, such as a radical generated by nonequilibrium plasma, and ozone,

An oxygen atom radical (-O), a nitrogen atom radical (-N), a hydroxy radical (-OH), a hydroperoxide radical (-HO2), etc. Although it is not emitted from the active species support section 3 since time amount after labile generates very highly until it disappears is very short Ozone (O3) is because it may have bad effect on the body, when there will be an unpleasant ozone smell, if it may not be supported with the active species support section 3, but may be emitted to habitation space and ozone is emitted. Here, in case ozone passes the ozonolysis section 4, it is decomposed into an oxygen molecule (O2).

With metal mold, the ozonolysis section 4 may cast what kneaded the powder of manganese oxide with clay etc. in the shape of a honeycomb, may produce it, may apply the powder of manganese oxide to honeycomb-like support, and may produce it. Moreover, a catalyst with the effectiveness which decomposes ozone may be used. In case especially the ozone generated by nonequilibrium plasma since the catalytic activity of manganese oxide or an ozonolysis catalyst was high when manganese oxide or an ozonolysis catalyst is an elevated temperature enough by contact to the exhaust gas of a burning appliance passes the ozonolysis section, it will be decomposed almost certainly.

[0035]

(Burning appliance)

The burning appliance concerning this invention is produced by attaching the nitrogen-oxides stripper mentioned above in exhaust gas exhaust ports, such as a kerosene fan heater, an oilstove, a gas fan heater, and a gas stove. Therefore, the burning appliance concerning this invention is easily producible from the configuration being simple. Moreover, since the exhaust gas from a burning appliance etc. is removed by the nitrogen-oxides stripper, the burning appliance concerning this invention can remove NOx, without polluting the air of habitation space.

[0036]

[Example]

(Equipment)

The NOx elimination factor was computed by having attached in the exhaust port of a kerosene fan heater the nitrogen-oxides stripper 1 shown in <u>drawing 1</u>. It was made for the gas which made the array direction of an electrode 2 the direction which intersects perpendicularly to the flow of gas, and was sent into the electric-field generating section to pass through the space between electrodes 2 here. [0037]

Moreover, with metal mold, the active species support section 3 cast what kneaded the powder and clay of a zeolite in the shape of a honeycomb, and produced it, and the ozonolysis section 4 applied the powder of manganese oxide to the honeycomb-like support made from aluminum, and produced it. [0038]

In addition, the electrode 2 was formed in the metal plate 6 by installing a metal plate 6 on the insulator plate 5 at the insulator plate 5 using the stainless plate whose die length of the flow direction of gas is 25mm and the thickness of 0.05mm using the boro-silicated glass plate whose die length of the flow direction of gas is 50mm and the thickness of 0.55mm. In addition, the electrode 2 has been arranged so that all may be parallel, and it set the arrangement spacing to 1.1mm. Moreover, the electrical potential difference impressed to the electrical-potential-difference impression means 8 was made into the amplitude of 7kV, and alternating voltage with a frequency of 60Hz.

(Test method)

First, the concentration of NOx contained in the exhaust gas discharged from the exhaust port of a kerosene fan heater without attaching the nitrogen-oxides stripper 1 was measured.

[0040]

Next, when the nitrogen-oxides stripper 1 was attached in the exhaust port of a kerosene fan heater from an outside and an electrical potential difference was impressed to the electrical-potential-difference impression means 8 of the nitrogen-oxides stripper 1, the concentration of NOx contained in exhaust gas after passing the nitrogen-oxides stripper 1 was measured.

[0041]

And it computed in the following formulas, the rate, i.e., the NOx elimination factor, of NOx removed by the nitrogen-oxides stripper 1.

NOx elimination factor (%) =100x(NOx concentration in exhaust gas after passage of NOx concentrationnitrogen-oxides stripper in exhaust gas before attaching nitrogen-oxides stripper)/(NOx concentration in exhaust gas before attaching a nitrogen-oxides stripper) In addition, using four kinds of 2, 50,500, and 2000 as a zeolite used for production of the active species support section 3, the SiO2/aluminum2O3 mole ratio examined separately, respectively, and compared the NOx elimination factor.

[0042]

(Test result)

A test result is shown in <u>drawing 5</u>. SiO2 / aluminum2O3 mole ratio is taken along an axis of abscissa, it takes an NOx elimination factor (unit: %) along an axis of ordinate, and <u>drawing 5</u> shows the relation between SiO2 / aluminum2O3 mole ratio, and an NOx elimination factor.

[0043]

The NOx elimination factor was so high that SiO2 / aluminum2O3 mole ratio of the zeolite used for production of the active species support section 3 became large as shown in <u>drawing 5</u>. When SiO2/aluminum2O3 mole ratio was 2, it was removed about 42% of NOx in the exhaust gas discharged from a kerosene fan heater, but when SiO2/aluminum2O3 mole ratio was 50, a mole ratio was [about 67% of NOx] 500 and about 74% of NOx was [a mole ratio] 2000, about 87% of NOx was removed. [0044]

Moreover, in the above-mentioned trial, when the concentration of the ozone contained in the exhaust gas after passing the ozonelysis section 4 was measured, it was 0.01 ppm or less. That is, it turned out that the ozone which the electric-field generating section generated is decomposed almost certainly [in case the ozonolysis section 4 is passed].

[0045]

It should be thought that the gestalt and example of operation which were indicated this time are [no] instantiation at points, and restrictive. The range of this invention is shown by the above-mentioned not explanation but claim, and it is meant that all modification in a claim, equal semantics, and within the limits is included.

[0046]

[Effect of the Invention]

As mentioned above, according to this invention, an equipment configuration is simple, and the burning appliance equipped with the nitrogen-oxides stripper and this which can remove NOx can be offered, without polluting the air of habitation space.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the typical perspective view of the nitrogen-oxides stripper concerning this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the typical perspective view of an example of the electrode used for this invention.

[Drawing 3] It is the typical conceptual diagram of an example of the electric-field generating section used for this invention.

[Drawing 4] It is the typical conceptual diagram of other examples of the electric-field generating section used for this invention.

[Drawing 5] It is drawing having shown the relation of the SiO2/aluminum2O3 mole ratio and NOx elimination factor in an example.

[Description of Notations]

1 A nitrogen-oxides stripper, 2 An electrode, 3 The active species support section, 4 The ozonolysis section, 5 An insulator plate, 6 A metal plate, 7 The electric-field generating section, 8 electrical-potential-difference impression means, 9 Case.

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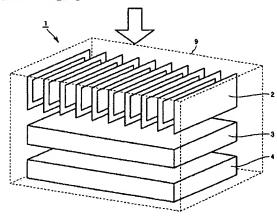
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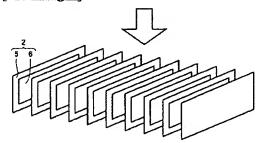
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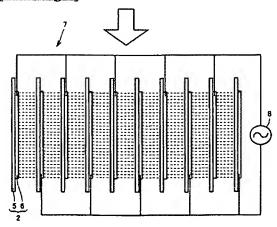
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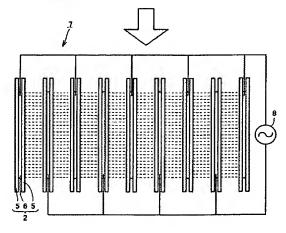
[Drawing 2]



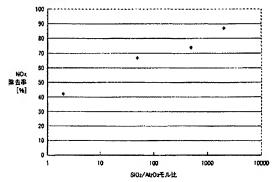
[Drawing 3]







[Drawing 5]



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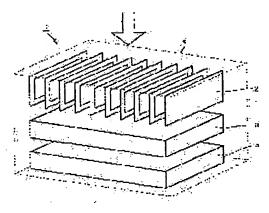
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SOLUTION: The nitrogen oxide removing apparatus is provided with an electric field generating part which is composed of a plurality of plate-shaped electrodes disposed so as to be opposed to each other leaving an interval and a voltage applying means for applying a voltage between the electrodes, and an active species adsorbing part which adsorbs the active species produced between the electrodes. The combustion equipment is equipped with the nitrogen oxide removing apparatus. Therein, the active species adsorbing part is preferably disposed on the gas down stream side on the electric field generating part and an ozone decomposition part for decomposing ozone is preferably disposed on the gas down stream side of the active species adsorbing part.



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(54) 【発明の名称】 窒素酸化物除去装置およびこれを備えた燃焼機器

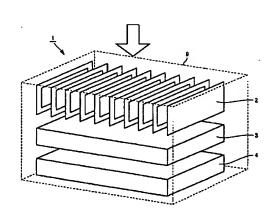
(57)【要約】

【課題】装置構成が簡易であり、居住空間の空気を汚染することなくNO×を除去できる窒素酸化物除去装置とこれを備えた燃焼機器を提供する。

【解決手段】間隔をあけて互いに対向するように配置された複数の平板状の電極とこれらの電極の間に電圧を印加する電圧印加手段とからなる電界発生部と、電極間に生成した活性種を吸着する活性種吸着部とを構えた窒素酸化物除去装置と、この窒素酸化物除去装置を構えた燃焼器である。ここで、活性種吸着部が電界発生部のガス下流側に設置されていることが好ましく、活性種吸着部のガス下流側にオソンを分解するオゾン分解部が設置されていることがより好ましい。

【選択図】

図 1



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】

間隔をあけて互いに対向するように配置された複数の平板状の電極とこれらの電極の間に 電圧を印加する電圧印加手段とからなる電界発生部と、電極間に生成した活性種を担持す る活性種担持部とを備えた窒素酸化物除去装置。

【請求項2】

活性種担持部が電界発生部のガス下流側に設置されていることを特徴とする請求項1に記載の窒素酸化物除去装置。

【請求項3】

活性種担持部はセオライトを含むフィルタからなることを特徴とする請求項1または2に記載の窒素酸化物除去装置。

【謫求項4】

【請求項5】

電極が絶縁体板上に金属板を設置することにより形成されており、互いに対向している電極の対向面の一方が絶縁体板面となるように電極が配置されていることを特徴とする語求項 1 から4 のいずれかに記載の窒素酸化物除去装置。

【請求項6】

電極が2枚の絶縁体板の間に金属板を挟み込むことにより形成されており、互いに対向している電極の対向面の双方が絶縁体板面となるように電極が配置されていることを特徴とする諺求項1から4のいずれかに記載の窒素酸化物除去装置。

【請求項7】

絶縁体根が金属板よりも大きく、金属板の周縁が絶縁体板の周縁から後退させられていることを特徴とする請求項5または6に記載の窒素酸化物除去装置。

【謫求項8】

電圧印加手段は、電極間に交流電圧を印加するものであることを特徴とする諺求項1から 7のいずれかに記載の窒案酸化物除去装置。

【請求項9】

活性種担持部のガス下流側に、オソンを分解するオソン分解部が設置されていることを特 30 徴とする請求項1から8のいずれかに記載の窒案酸化物除去装置。

【請求項10】

オゲン分解部は酸化マンガンを含むフィルタであることを特徴とする請求項9 に記載の窒 案酸化物除去装置。

請求項1から10のいずれかに記載の窒素酸化物除去装置を備えたことを特徴とする燃焼機器。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】

本発明は窒索酸化物除去装置に関するものであるとともに、この特徴的な窒素酸化物除去装置を構えた燃焼機器(例えば、石油ファンヒータ、石油ストープ、ガスファンヒータ、ガスストープ等)に関するものである。

[0002]

【従来の技術】

近年、環境問題の顕在化や居住空間の高気密化に伴い、空気中の有害物質を取り除き、健康で快適な生活を送りたいという要望が強くなっている。この要望に応えるため、各種のフィルタを備えた空気清浄機が開発されている。これらの空気清浄機は、居住空間における空気を吸引してフィルタにより有害物質を吸着する方式を採用している。

[0003]

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しかしながら、高気密化された居住空間の中で石油ファンヒータ等の燃焼機器を使用した場合には、石油等の燃焼によって大量に発生した窒素酸化物NOXが住居空間に放出されるため、従来の空気済浄機においては住居空間におけるNOX濃度の増加を十分に防ぐことができないという問題があった。

[0004]

この問題を解決するために、例えば、特許文献1においては、必要に応じてアンモニアがスを発生させ、このアンモニアがスとNOXとの触媒反応によって燃焼機器から排出される排がス中のNOXを除去する装置が開示されている。

[0005]

【特許文献1】

特開平11-165042号公報

[0006]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】

しかしながら、特許文献1に開示されている除去装置においてアンモニがスを過剰に発生させてしまった場合には、未反応のアンモニアがスが排がス中に含まれてしまうため、居住空間の空気が汚染されるという問題があった。その上、燃焼機器から発生するNOXの曼に応じてアンモニアがスの供給量を調節する必要があるため、装置の構成が非常に複雑になり、装置の製造コストが高くなってしまうという問題があった。

[0007]

せこで、本発明は、上記問題に鑑み、装置構成が簡易であり、居住空間の空気を汚染することなくNOXを除去することができる窒素酸化物除去装置およびこれを備えた燃焼機器を提供することを目的とする。

[0008]

【課題を解決するための手段】

本発明は、間隔をあけて互りに対向するように配置された複数の平板状の電極とこれらの電極の間に電圧を印加する電圧印加手段とからなる電界発生部と、電極間に生成した活性種を担持する活性種担持部とを備えた窒素酸化物除去装置である。

[0009]

ここで、本発明に係る窒素酸化物除去装置においては、活性種担持部が電界発生部のガス 下流側に設置されていることが好ましい。

[0010]

また、本発明に係る窒素酸化物除去装置においては、活性種担持部がセオライトを含むフィルタからなることが好ましい。

[0011]

ここで、活性種担持部に含まれるセオライトのSiO2 / Al2 O3 モル此が50 \sim 50 0 0 0 であることがより好ましい。

[0012]

また、本発明に係る窒素酸化物除去装置においては、電極が絶縁体板上に金属板を設置することにより形成されており、互いに対向している電極の対向面の一方が絶縁体板面となるように電極を配置することができる。

[0013]

また、本発明に係る窒素酸化物除去装置においては、電極が2枚の絶縁体板の間に金属板を挟み込むことにより形成されており、互いに対向している電極の対向面の双方が絶縁体板面となるように電極を配置することができる。

[0014]

[0015]

また、本発明に係る窒素酸化物除去装置においては、電圧印加手段が電極間に交流電圧を印加するものであることが好ましい。

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[0016]

また、本発明に係る窒素酸化物除去装置においては、活性種担持部のガス下流側に、オケンを分解するオソン分解部が設置されていることが好ましい。

[0017]

ここで、オソン分解部は酸化マンガンを含むフィルタであることが好ましい。

さらに、本発明は、上記窒素酸化物除去装置を備えた燃焼機器である。

[0018]

【発明の実施の形態】

(窒案酸化物除去装置)

図1に本発明に係る窒素酸化物除去装置の好ましい一例の模式的な斜視図を示す。図1において、窒素酸化物除去装置1は、ケース9内に、平板状の電極2と、活性種担持部3と、オソン分解部4とを含んでいる。図1中、矢印はガスが流れる方向を示している。ここで、活性種担持部3は電極2のガス下流側に設置され、オソン分解部4は活性種担持部3のガス下流側に設置されている。

[0019]

本発明に係る窒素酸化物除去装置1は、このような構成をとっていることから、 たとえば 燃焼機器等の排出口からNOXを含む排がスが矢印の方向に流れてきた場合に、 電極2間 に電圧を印加してNOXまたは空気等のがスが存在する電極2間の空間にプラズマを発生 させ、そのプラズマ中のラジカル等の活性種をかス下流側に設置された活性種担持部3に おいて担持することによって、または担持した活性種とNOXとを反応させることによって、 NOXを除去できるのである。また、オゾン分解部4を活性種担持部3のガス下流側 に設置することによって、活性種担持部3においてオゲンが担持されなかった場合でも、オゾン分解部4において不快な臭いを有するオゾンを分解することができる。

[0020]

(電極)

図2に電極2を拡大した模式的な斜視図を示す。図2において、電極2は、絶縁体板5上に金属板6を設置することによって形成されている。そして、複数の電極2が間隔をあけて互いに対向するように配置されている。ここで、互いに対向している電極2の対向面の一方が絶縁体板5面であることがら、電極2は、絶縁体板5面一金属板6面がらなる対向面の組み合わせが連続するように配置されている。このような構成で電極2間に電界を発生させた場合には、絶縁体板5の誘電率は電極2間の空間に存在するガスの誘電率よりも大きいことから、絶縁体板5が受ける電界の影響よりも電極2間に存在するガスが受ける電界の影響の方が大きくなる。しかも、電極2間に存在するガスの方が、絶縁体板5よりも低い電界強度で絶縁破壊を起こす。

[0021]

したがって、電極2間に印加する電圧を増加させて所定範囲の電圧にすると、電極2間に存在するがスの放電が穏やかに起きてプラズマが発生することとなる。ここで、電極2間に存在するがスが受ける電界強度は均一であるため、電極2間の空間に広く均一にプラズマを発生させることが可能となる。

[0022]

また、電極2においては、絶縁体板5が金属板6よりも大きく形成され、金属板6の周縁が絶縁体板5の周縁から後退させられていることが好ましい。この場合には、互いに対向する電極2の端面間に導電性の高い放電路が形成されて電極2間に大きな電流が流れることを防止することができる。

[0023]

また、電極とは、2枚の絶縁体板の間に金属板を挟み込むことにより形成されていることが好ましい。この場合には、電極2の対向面の双方が絶縁体板5面となるように電極2が配置されることとなる。したがって、対向する電極2の端面間に導電性の高い放電路が形成されて電流が流れることがない。

[0024]

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また、電極2を2枚のみ用いてこれらの電極間に電界を発生させてもよいが、上述のように電極2を3枚以上用いてこれらの電極間に電界を発生させることが好ましい。この場合には、より広い空間にプラズマを発生させることができる。

[0025]

なお、 絶縁体板 5 としては、 例えば、 ホウ 珪酸 ガラス等のガラス、 セラミックス 等の 絶縁 体 対 板 が 用 い られる。 また、 金 属 板 6 としては、 例えば、 アルミニウム、 鋼、 ステンレス 、 タングステン等の 金 属 薄 板 が 用 い られる。 また、 金 属 板 6 は、 絶縁 体 板 5 の 奏 面 に アル ミニウム、 鋼、 タングステン等の 金 属 薄 膜 を 物理 的 または 化 学 的 に 堆積 さ せる こ と に より 形成 さ れて もよい。

[0026]

(電界発生部)

[0027]

ここで、電圧印加手段8は、電極2間に交流電圧を印加するものであることが好ましい。 電極2間に印加される電圧が直流電圧である場合には、絶縁体板5の存在によって金属板 6に流れ込めない電荷が絶縁体板5の表面に蓄積されていくことから、電極2間に存在す るガスに影響を与える電界が減少して、電極2間に発生したプラズマがすぐに消失してし まう傾向にある。しかし、電極2間に印加される電圧が交流電圧である場合には、絶縁体 板5の表面に電荷が蓄積されていかないことから、電極2間に安定してプラズマを維持す ることができる。

[0028]

なお、電界発生部7としては、たとえば図4に示すように、絶縁体板5の間に金属板6を挟み込んで形成した電極2を複数配置し、電極2間に電圧を印加する電圧印加手段8を構えたものも用いることができる。この場合にも電極2間の広い空間に非平衡プラズマを安定して維持することができる。

[0029]

(活性種担持部)

図1に示す活性種担持部3は、セオライトを含むフィルタであることが好ましい。燃焼機器の排がスまたは空気中に含まれるNO×は電界発生部において活性種に分解される。かなわち、電界発生部においてNO×および空気が分解されて生成したラジカル等の活性種と、電界発生部で分解されなかったNO×とは、共にセオライトが持つ細孔内に引き寄せられる。そして、この細孔内で、活性種とNO×とが反応を起こすと、NO×は窒素分子(N2)に還元されるが、硝酸(HNOa)等に酸化される。ここで、NO×が細孔内で酸化されて生成した硝酸(HNOa)等は、吸着等によってセオライトの細孔内に確実に担持されるものと推察される。特に、セオライトが燃焼機器の排がスとの接触により十分

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高温になっている場合には、セオライトの触媒活性が高くなっているため、細孔内における活性種とNO×との反応が非常に起きやすくなる。したがって、活性種担持部3がセオライトを含むフィルタである場合には、NO×は、電極2間および活性種担持部3を一回通過するだけで大部分が除去されることとなる。

[0030]

ここで、セオライトを含むフィルタは、例えば、セオライトの粉末を粘土等と混 練したものを金型によってハニカム状に成型して作製してもよく、またはセオライトの粉末をハニカム状担体に塗布して作製してもよい。

[0031]

また、セオライトとしては、SiO₂ /Al₂ О₃ モル比が50~50000であるものを用いることが好ましく、より好ましくは上記モル比が500~10000であるものを用いることが好ましく、さらに好ましくは上記モル比が2000~5000であるものを用いることが好ましい。SiO₂ /Al₂ О₃ モル比が50未満である場合には水分子等の極性分子を吸着しやすくNO×を除去する能力が低下する傾向にあり、モル比が5000より大きい場合にはセオライトの結晶構造内におけるアルミニウムの数が少な過ぎてセオライトの吸着能が低下すると推察される。

[0032]

セオライトの結晶構造は、たとえばSi(珪索)を中心とし、〇(酸案)が四面体の各項点に配置されたSi〇4四面体と、AI(アルミニウム)を中心とし、〇(酸案)が四面体の各項点に配置されたAI〇4四面体とが、〇(酸案)を共有しながら3次元的に配列した構造になっている。そして、セオライトの結晶構造内のAIに対するSiの割合が大きくなる程、セオライト細孔内に水分子等の極性分子が吸着しにくくなる。すなわち、セオライト細孔内に吸着した水分子等の極性分子は、ラジカル等の活性種とNO×を除去する能力が高くなる。一方、セオライトの結晶構造内のAIの数が少な過ぎると、Si⁴ ヤを置換する配位数4のAI³ ヤの数が少なくなるののといるとは、ラジカル等の活性種とNO×を吸着する能力が低下し、ひいてはNO×を除去する能力が低下すると推察される。

[0033]

(オソン分解部)

図1に示すように、本発明に係る窒素酸化物除去装置1においては、活性種担持部8のがス下流側に、オソンを分解するオソン分解部4が設置されていることが好ましい。非平衡プラズマによって生成したラジカル、オソン等の活性種のうち、酸素原子ラジカル(・O)、とドロキシラジカル(・OH)、ヒドロペルオキシドラジカル(・HO2)等は、反応活性が非常に高く生成してから消滅するまでの時間が非常に短いため活性種担持部8から放出されることはないが、オソン(O3)は活性種担持部8で担持されず居住空間に放出されることがあり、オソンが放出されると、不快なオソンタがする上、人体に惡い影響を及ぼす場合があるためである。ここで、オソンはオソン分解部4を通過する際に酸素分子(O2)に分解される。

[0034]

オゲン分解部4は、例えば、酸化マンガンの粉末を粘土等と退線したものを金型によって 八二カム状に成型して作製してもよく、酸化マンガンの粉末を八二カム状担体に塗布して 作製してもよい。また、オゲンを分解する効果を持つ触媒を用いてもよい。特に、酸化マ ンガンまたはオゲン分解触媒が燃焼機器の排ガスとの接触により十分高温になっている場合には、酸化マンガンまたはオゲン分解触媒の触媒活性が高くなっているため、非平衡プラズマによって発生したオゲンはオゲン分解部を通過する際にほぼ確実に分解されること となる。

[0035]

(燃焼機器)

本発明に係る燃焼機器は、上述した窒素酸化物除去装置を石油ファンヒータ、石油ストー

プ、ガスファンヒータ、ガスストープ等の排ガス排出口に取り付けることによって作製される。したがって、本発明に係る燃焼機器はその構成が簡易であることから、容易に作製することができる。また、燃焼機器等からの排ガスは窒素酸化物除去装置によって除去されることから、本発明に係る燃焼機器は、居住空間の空気を汚染することなくNO※を除去することができる。

[0036]

【実施例】

(装置)

図 1 に示す窒素酸化物除去装置 1 を石油ファンヒータの排出口に取り付けて、NOX除去率を算出した。ここで、電極 2 の配列方向は、ガスの流れに対して直交する方向とし、電界発生部に送り込まれたガスは、電極 2 間の空間を通過するようにした。

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[0037]

また、活性種担持部 3 は、セオライトの粉末と粘土とを退線したものを金型によってハニカム状に成型して作製し、オゲン分解部 4 は、酸化マンガンの粉末をアルミニウム製のハニカム状担体に塗布して作製した。

[0038]

なお、絶縁体板 5 にはガスの流れ方向の長さが 5 0 mm、厚み 0 . 5 5 mmのホウ珪酸ガラス板を用い、金属板 6 にはガスの流れ方向の長さが 2 5 mm、厚み 0 . 0 5 mmのステンレス板を用いて、絶縁体板 5 上に金属板 6 を設置することにより電極 2 を形成した。 なお、電極 2 は、すべて平行になるように配置し、その配置間隔を 1 . 1 mmとした。 また、電圧印加手段 8 に印加する電圧は、振幅 7 k V、周波数 6 0 H Z の交流電圧とした。

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[0039]

(試験方法)

まず、窒素酸化物除去装置1を取り付けないで、石油ファンヒータの排出口から排出される排がス中に含まれるNOXの濃度を測定した。

[0040]

次に、石油ファンヒータの排出口に外側から窒素酸化物除去装置1を取り付け、窒素酸化物除去装置1の電圧印加手段8に電圧を印加した時に、窒素酸化物除去装置1を通過した 後の排ガス中に含まれるNOXの濃度を測定した。

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[0041]

そして、窒素酸化物除去装置1によって除去されたNOXの割合、すなわち、NOX除去率を以下の計算式で算出した。

NO×除去率(%)=100×(窒素酸化物除去装置を取り付ける前の排がス中のNO× 濃度-窒素酸化物除去装置の通過後の排がス中のNO×濃度)/(窒素酸化物除去装置を取り付ける前の排がス中のNO×濃度)

なお、活性種担持部3の作製に用いるセオライトとして、8i〇2 /Al2 〇3 モル比が2、50、500および2000の4種類を用い、それぞれ別々に試験を行なって、NO ×除去率の比較を行なった。

[0042]

(試験結果)

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図5 に試験結果を示す。図5 は横軸にSiO₂ /Al₂ O₃ モル此を、縦軸にNOX除去率(単位:%)をとり、SiO₂ /Al₂ O₃ モル比とNOX除去率との関係を示している。

[0043]

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[0044]

また、上記の試験において、オゲン分解部4を通過後の排ガスに含まれるオゲンの濃度を 測定したところ0.01PPm以下であった。すなわち、電界発生部が生成したオゲンは 、オゲン分解部4を通過する際にほぼ確実に分解されていることがわかった。

[0045]

今回開示された実施の形態および実施例はすべての点で例示であって制限的なものではないと考えられるべきである。本発明の範囲は上記した説明ではなくて特許請求の範囲によって示され、特許請求の範囲と均等の意味および範囲内でのすべての変更が含まれることが意図される。

[0046]

【発明の効果】

上述したように本発明によれば、装置構成が簡易であり、居住空間の空気を汚染することなくNO×を除去することができる窒素酸化物除去装置およびこれを構えた燃焼機器を提供することができる。

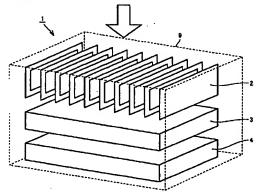
【図面の簡単な説明】

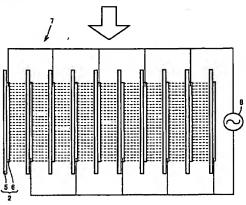
- 【図1】本発明に係る窒素酸化物除去装置の模式的な斜視図である。
- 【図2】本発明に用いられる電極の一例の模式的な斜視図である。
- 【図3】本発明に用いられる電界発生部の一例の模式的な概念図である。
- 【図4】本発明に用いられる電界発生部の他の例の模式的な概念図である。
- 【図 5 】実施例における8 i O 2 / A 1 2 O 3 モル比とN O $<math>\times$ 除去率との関係を示した図である。

【符号の説明】

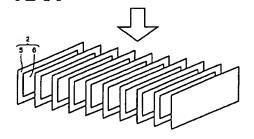
1 窒素酸化物除去装置、2 電極、3 活性種担持部、4 オソン分解部、5 絶縁体板、6 金属板、7 電界発生部、8 電圧印加手段、9 ケース。



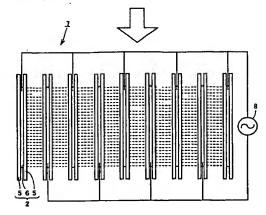




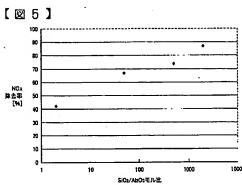
[22]











フロントページの続き

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